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PATENT APPLICATION

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 2871**

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yasunori OGAWA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2871

Application No.: 09/598,268

Examiner: P. Akkapeddi

Filed: June 21, 2000

Docket No.: 106187

For: LIQUID CRYSTAL DEVICE AND PROJECTOR USING THE SAME

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed November 19, 2002, reconsideration of the above-application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are pending.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,969,832 to Nakanishi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,835,179 to Yamanaka. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action recognizes that Yamanaka does not disclose that the entrance side substrate portion has a thickness greater than the exit side substrate portion. Applicants respectfully disagree the Office Action's assertion that it would have been obvious to combine the features of Nakanishi to provide the deficiencies of Yamanaka. MPEP §2141 provides that the references must be considered as a whole must suggest the desirability and thus the obviousness of making the combination. Furthermore, the references must be viewed without the benefit of impermissible hindsight vision afforded by the claimed invention. Yamanaka is concerned with dissipating heat generated in the liquid crystal

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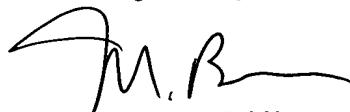
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display. In the invention of claims 1, 5, 7 and 11, the thickness  $T_1$  of the entrance side substrate portion 101 is set to be larger than the thickness  $T_0$  of the exit side substrate portion 102 because light condensed by the microlens 113a impinge upon the liquid crystal layer 1-3 and the light emitted from the liquid crystal layer 103 diverges due to the action of microlens 113a. See e.g., specification at page 6, lines 25 through page 7, line 8. Yamanaka does not disclose or suggest this feature. Because Yamanaka does not recognize the problem to be solved by the invention, there can be no motivation or suggestion to combine the features of Nakanishi with Yamanaka.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 19, 2003

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